

AIR POUCH

PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL (Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

F810007-1552

989

DESP. NO.

FROM : Amembassy STOCKHOLM

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

March 5, 1957

DATE

REF : Embassy Despatch No. 964, Feb. 25, 1957;
Joint Weeka No. 8, Feb. 21, 1957.

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	IN F OTHER
	EUR. 5	RM/R-2 OLI-8 P-1 L-2 U/O-1 U/O P-1
	3/11	CIA-15 OCB-1 USIA-10 Army-4 Navy-3 Air-3 OSD-4

SUBJECT: Sharp Swedish Note to Soviet Union Regarding Russian Memorandum of February 6, 1957, on Wallenberg Case.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

The Swedish Government sent a sharply worded note to the Soviet Union on February 19, 1957, in answer to the Russian memorandum of February 6th which contained the information that Wallenberg had died in a Soviet prison. In unusually strong critical language the Swedish Government implied that it did not consider the Soviet Union's answer satisfactory. To make sure that there could be no misunderstanding of its position, the Royal Ministry for Foreign Affairs released the full text of the Swedish note to the Soviet Union to the press on February 20, 1957, a copy of the translation of this note distributed by the press section of the Foreign Office is attached as Enclosure No. 1.

The Swedish note of February 19 laid full responsibility for detaining Raoul Wallenberg in a Soviet prison and for giving incorrect information to the Swedish Government about Wallenberg on the Soviet Government. It pointedly denied that the Soviet Government could shift responsibility for these actions onto any now deceased Soviet Security Agency officials. Furthermore, the note made a specific point of the fact that "Swedish public opinion is justly shocked by what has occurred in this matter". Expressing doubt that all traces of Wallenberg in Soviet imprisonment had been obliterated, as the Soviets claimed, the Swedish Government's note requested that any further details obtained be communicated to it, and it reserved the right to send additional material concerning Wallenberg to the Soviet Government.

The entire Swedish press, including the Communist Ny Dag, on February 21st headlined the story of the Swedish note, (although delivered in Moscow on February 19th by Ambassador Sohlman, publicity did not result until the evening of February 20). The overwhelming majority of the press commended the Government for the sharp tone of its note and ran editorials again deploring the Soviet treatment of Wallenberg.

END UNCLASSIFIED

JSweeney/sb

REPORTER

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to RM/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

Central Files

DO1-0004/0-001

001-0004/0-001

EC.
E.A.
SFS
SFS

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL
(Classification)

Page 2 of
Encl. No.
Disp. No. 989
From Stockholm

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

If the Foreign Office had not put out a strong note and given publicity to it, the is little question but that there would have occurred a public disagreement between the Wallenberg Committee (made up of distinguished Swedish citizens) and the Foreign Office which would in turn have placed a political strain on the Government. As it turned out, the Government has had the support of a remarkably united public opinion in insisting that the last word has not been said on the Wallenberg case and that further and more energetic Soviet investigations are required to shed full and accurate light on Wallenberg's disappearance.

A concomittant of this press reaction, otherwise so decidedly in the Government's favor, has been a revived campaign by the Opposition press against Foreign Minister Undén for his alleged passiveness and lack of interest at an earlier stage of the search for Wallenberg. Testimonies by members of the Wallenberg Committee, released in Veckojournalen and similar weeklies told how Undén in 1947 reportedly took the Soviet assurances of that time as evidence that Wallenberg was not to be found on Russian territory. Several Opposition papers contained attacks on Foreign Minister Undén for his cynical attitude at that time. However, these attacks are all based on an alleged attitude that took place some ten years ago and must contend with the fact that Foreign Minister Undén is now responsible for this sharp note to the Soviet Union. On balance, therefore, it does not appear that these Opposition attacks have materially damaged Undén's unique political position in Sweden.

Foreign Office officials at the Bureau Chief level have made the point, and it is evident in terms of press reaction, that the Soviet reply finally telling of Wallenberg's death has led to a decided worsening of Swedish-Soviet relations. The present sharp note deprecating the accuracy of the Soviet Memorandum of February 6 is still another indication that Swedish-Soviet relations are at a low ebb.

For the Ambassador:

Enclosure:

Joseph Sweeney
First Secretary of Embassy

Translation of note

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED
(Classification)
UNCLASSIFIED

Encl. No. 1
Disp. No. 989
From Stockholm

"Inofficial (sic) translation" released by Foreign Office

Foreign Office Press Release Wednesday, February 20th, 1957
Concerning Swedish Note to Soviet Union

A note of the following content was delivered to the Soviet Foreign Ministry by the Swedish Ambassador Rolf Sohlman on February 19th, 1957:

"In a Memorandum of February 6th, 1957, the Soviet Government declared that from their investigations regarding the Swedish Secretary of Legation Raoul Wallenberg the conclusion ought to be drawn, that Wallenberg died in a prison in Moscow during the night July 16th-17th, 1947. The responsibility for detaining the Swedish diplomat in prison and for the incorrect information which has been given the Swedish Government for many years since August 18th, 1947, is laid on the Soviet Security Agencies. The Soviet Government has expressed their sincere regret at what has happened. They have further stated, that the person among the top officials of the Security Service who was primarily responsible for the aggression against Wallenberg, was sentenced to death and executed on account of severe crimes.

"Swedish public opinion is justly shocked by what has occurred in this matter. If the Soviet Security Service was able to act in such an autocratic way as to make a diplomat of a neutral country a prisoner and keep him in prison for 2 1/2 years without reporting the case to the Soviet Government or to the Foreign Ministry, this fact is not in itself a circumstance, for which the Soviet Government can disclaim responsibility. By expressing their regret, the Soviet Government has also admitted their responsibility. To this is added the fact that, while Wallenberg was confined in a Moscow prison, the Soviet Government cannot, considering the numerous Swedish appeals, have been unable to obtain reliable information in the matter, if they had really undertaken the thorough investigations they have repeatedly assured the Swedish Government that they had made.

"In this connection it should be recalled, that as late as the day before the one reported as the date of Wallenberg's death, Ambassador Sohlman reminded of Wallenberg in the Soviet Foreign Ministry. Before that occasion Moscow had been reminded of this matter some twenty times after January 16th, 1945, when the Deputy Foreign Minister Dekanosov informed the Swedish Legation in Moscow, that Wallenberg had been found and taken in Soviet Russian custody.

The Swedish Government find it difficult to believe that all

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

Page _____
Encl. No. 1
Disp. No. 989
From Stockholm

further documentation concerning Wallenberg's stay in Soviet prisons, with exception of the report mentioned in the Soviet Government Memorandum, should have been completely obliterated. They expect, therefore, that if any further material is found in the Soviet Union, destined to clarify what happened to Wallenberg, it will be communicated to the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The Swedish Government, on their side, reserve their right to communicate further material concerning Wallenberg that the Swedish Government consider of importance for continued investigations in the Soviet Union."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED